

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-30 are pending, and all stand rejected. In the response, claims 1, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 28 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-30 are presented for reconsideration.

Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

On page 2, the Official Action rejects claims 1-18 and 22-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Gwon (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0016655). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Gwon teaches a dynamic network wherein the mobile node (MN) device communicates with a foreign agent (FA) router that is in communication range with it. Gwon also teaches a home agent (HA) within the network that forwards packets of information to the FA which the MN is currently communicating with. Gwon's HA remains the same (does not change) regardless of which FA the MN is communicating with.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent ... wherein the new home agent after the change forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node to the care-of address.

Claim 1 relates to the changing of the home agent (HA). Specifically, the home agent is a router on the home network of the mobile node (MN). The HA forwards packets directed to the home address of the MN to its current care-of address. Specifically, as the MN moves to a network, a new HA is selected based on the location of the MN. Thus, when the MN changes to a new HA, then the new HA forwards packets directed to the home address of the MN to its care-of address. This feature is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and furthermore supported on page 16, lines 1-25 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

On page 3, the Official Action suggests that home agents and foreign agents are the same type of device. Applicants, however, respectfully disagree with the Examiner. A home agent (HA) is a router on the home network of the MN which forwards packets directed to the

home address of the MN to its current care-of address location. On the contrary, a foreign agent (FA) is a router that the MN is currently communicating with while away from its home network.

Paragraphs 59 and 60 of Gwon teach the changing of the FA as the MN moves through the network (*"the mobile node 135 registers a new care-of IP address with its home area router (HA)"*). Specifically, as shown in Fig. 2, as MN 135 moves from position A to B to C in the network, it changes from foreign agent R1 to foreign agent R2. HA 145, however, does not change, it merely registers a new care-of address for foreign agents R1 and R2. This is also shown in Gwon's Fig. 4 where MN 135 moves from position A to position B and therefore selects a new FA. Gwon switches foreign agents, but does not switch home agents.

As discussed above, the main difference between a home agent and a foreign agent is that a home agent forwards packets directed to the home address of a mobile node to its care-of address. Therefore, the HA forwards messages to the care-of address where the mobile node is located. Applicants' claim 1 is different than Gwon, because the mobile node is able to select a new home agent (*"a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent ... when the new home agent after the change forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node to the care-of address"*). This feature is supported in Applicants' Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. In Applicants' Figs. 1 and 2, mobile node 10 as it moves through the network, changes from HA 11 to HA 14. This change, for example, may be dictated by communication delay between the MN and its HA. In Fig. 1, MN 10 is in position 13 of the network and therefore communicates with HA 11. In Fig. 2 as MN moves from position 13 to position 10 in the network, it switches to new HA 14. Therefore, HA 14 acts as the mobile node's new HA and forwards messages directed to the home address of the MN to its current care-of address in location 16. This feature is also supported on Applicants' page 16, lines 1-25 of the specification (*"home agent 11 ... measures a communication delay time ... when the measured number value or communication delay time is equal to or greater than a predetermined threshold, the home agent 11 sends the mobile node 10 a binding acknowledgement message instructing for a change of home agent"*). Therefore, Applicants' new home agent forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node whereas Gwon's new foreign agent cannot forward information directed to the mobile nodes' home address (because the foreign agent is not the same as the home agent).

It is because Applicants include the feature of *"a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent ... wherein the new home agent after the change forwards messages directed to the home address of the mobile node to the care-of address"*, that the following advantages are achieved. An advantage is the ability to switch home agents based on the mobile nodes current location in the network. Switching to a home agent which is closer, allows more efficient communication from the mobile node's home network to its current location. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Independent claims 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 28 have been similarly amended to claim 1. Thus, claims 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 28 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-18, 20-27 and 29-30 include all of the features of the claim from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

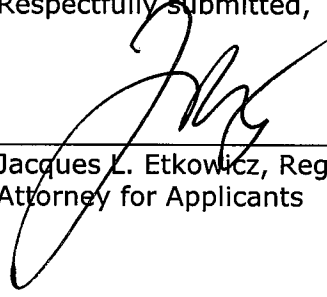
On page 20, the Official Action rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gwon in view of Huang (5,448,569). Huang does not suggest switching home agents. Thus, neither Huang, Gwon nor their combination suggest the features of Applicants claim 1.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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